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PER MASTER LIST

Project I.D. No. 58

NAME: INOUYE, RIKAE DATE OF BIRTH: 1897 PLACE OF BIRTH: EHIME
Age: 75 Sex: F Marital Status: M Education: JUNIOR HIGH

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1916 Age: 19 M.S. M Port of entry: VANCOUVER, BC TO SEATTLE
Occupation/s: 1. FARM WIFE 2. FARM 3. _____
Place of residence: 1. YAKIMA, WA 2. SACRAMENTO 3. _____
Religious affiliation: _____
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: _____
Name of relocation center: TULE LAKE
Dispensation of property: AMERICANS SOLD CROPS FOR INOUYES; EQUIPMENT/tools STOLEN Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. _____ 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: LAWRENCE, KANSAS

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: 1947
Address/es: 1. SACRAMENTO 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: TAKARABE Date: 3/74 Place: SACRAMENTO

Translator: Mariko Magee

MRS. RIKAE INOUYE'S INTERVIEW

Q: REVEREND HEIHACHIRO TAKARABE

A: MRS. RIKAE INOUYE

A: When I pronounce it.....

Q: Pronunciation doesn't matter.

A: It sounds like that when I feel (embarrassed).

Q: Are you comfortable?

A: Yes.

Q: First, will you tell me your name clearly?

A: My name.....my birth place.....

Q: No. Your name.

A: Rikae Inouye.

Q: How do you write Rikae?

A: I always use "katakana." Many people use various "kanji" to write my name. I prefer "katakana."

Q: What does "Rikae" mean? No meaning?

A: The meaning is that I was named after my grandmother. My grandmother's name was Rika. She gave her name to her youngest grandchild.

Q: Where did it come from?

A: I don't know. It was my grandmother's. I don't know where it came from.

Q: Where are you from?

A: Mikami-town, Nishiwa-county, Ehime-prefecture.

Q: What kind of family are you from?

A: Farmers. Not peasants. I was raised in a farming family. I like farming very much.

Q: Where were you born?

A: In Ehime-prefecture. The same place.

Q: When were you born?

A: On the sixth of February.

Q: In what year?

A: In 1897.

Q: You are seventy-five years old now.

A: I've become seventy-seven now. February has passed.

Q: What was your family religion? Buddhism?

A: They were ardent Zen Buddhists. There have been temple or shrine officials in our family for generations. They have been taking care of lots of things. I guess they're doing that even now.

Q: What do you remember about your family during your childhood?

A: What impressed me the most is that our family was a farm family. When I was thirteen or fourteen years old, I wanted to dress up, seeing others in beautiful outfits. There were business families as well as farm families. I had my kimono ordered. My grandfather once said, "Farmers should lead a suitable life as farmers. Everybody wants to indulge in luxury. You can indulge in luxury without being taught, whereas you can't have a humble life unless you learn it during your childhood days. Since it is not good for you, I don't want you to indulge in luxury." I didn't appreciate that at that time. I'm leading such a humble life even now. I went back to farming twice after I came to the United States. I went out to farm in Washington. In those days, the humble life which my grandfather had told me about helped a lot.

I was very grateful to him. I am grateful to him even now.

Q: What kind of person was your father?

A: My father was also a farmer.

Q: What kind of reputation did he have?

A: He was a village official for a long time. However, our family didn't like the role of village politician. Though they did a lot for the village, they didn't like to be politicians or committee members.

Q: Why?

A: Village politician wasn't a suitable position for a farmer. Every time the village meeting was held, my family pointed out that farmers should lead a suitable life as farmers. Though we weren't actively participating in village politics, our family members were village officials for a long time. We were loved by the villagers.

Q: What kind of person was your mother?

A: My mother was a bright woman. For my moral training.....My father died when I was ten years old. I was the worst tomboy. After my father's death, my mother didn't want me to feel lonely. She said, "Don't be discouraged just because you don't have your father." Since the age of eleven, I had been learning tea-ceremony with a Buddhist priest, who was a teacher of tea-ceremony. It was meant for my moral training. Returning home, I was told that we didn't have time to have a tea-ceremony at home and that learning tea-ceremony was for my moral training. Whenever I was ill-mannered or ran at home,

I was reproved for my bad manners. I had been learning tea-ceremony since the age of eleven. The priest attended an annual tea-ceremony held at the temple's headquarters. I was the youngest in the class at that time. The priest, a school principal and the village chief's wife.....I was the only child among them. My mother asked the priest to give me moral training among those people rather than the tea-ceremony itself. Being lonely and by myself, I invited three or four friends to form a group.

Q: Formed it?

A: Yes. I thank my family.

Q: How far did you go in school?

A: There weren't any girl's schools in our village then. There were a 6-year elementary school and a 2-year junior high school. I attended an evening school with my friends for one year. I had never attended a girl's school.

Q: What do you remember about your junior high school or elementary school days?

A: Our school life was based on moral training.

Q: It was based on moral training?

A: I wasn't good at History or Geography. I was fond of listening to the lecture in the Morals course. Female students learned all of the manners for females. I liked them, but I didn't like the academic subjects.

Q: What kind of interesting things occurred?

A: I had fun every day. At the time of grduation, I felt lonely

after the commencement exercise. Opening the window on the second floor, I saw the school building. I cried by myself.

Q: Did you?

A: Missing the school, I cried. I loved it very much.

Q: You must have liked your teachers.

A: Yes. All of the teachers were kind.

Q: You missed them.

A: I missed the school, which was full of love. I wasn't good at athletic meets or school hiking trips. My legs were weak since my childhood days. While climbing a mountain, our teacher said, "Rika, you're great!" and held my hand. I am grateful to the teacher even now. I wanted to go with the others.

Q: What about sad happenings or things of that nature?

A: I had nothing sad in my life. My life was full of love. I thank my home life, which was full of love. Being raised in a home with love, I had never heard of speaking ill of others behind their backs. When my parents talked about their problems.....the problem of "ukeban" and various problems.

Q: What's "ukeban?"

A: "Ukeban." You help somebody to get a loan by giving them your seal on. He gets loan from a bank. The problem always arose and my parents talked about it. They soon stopped their discussion, saying, "We don't have to talk about such a thing in front of children." They didn't talk about problems concerning others in front of children. Our home was sweet

-----a home of love.

Q: After your father's death, your grandfather.....

A: My grandfather was an adopted-groom. My grandfather and grandmother didn't have any children. There were three brothers in my grandfather's family. His younger brother was adopted by somebody. His youngest brother was adopted by him to succeed to him. My grandfather's youngest brother and my mother succeeded to my grandmother's surname. Including my grandfather and grandmother, everybody was living happily together at home. We loved one another. I had my grandfather. He was a nice grandfather.

Q: What were you taught in the way of religious education?

A: Our religion was the Zen sect. I'm sure you know most of what there is to know about it. Speaking of religious education, I was told that I shouldn't be impolite or ill-mannered in any way. My parents and grandparents always said to me, "You shouldn't do anything bad. "Heaven knows, the earth knows, and people know about it." It's a good saying. I don't know if they meant God by Heaven. I'd heard of Christianity for the first time after I came to the United States. Buddhism was popular.

Q: Heaven knows.....and what?

A: Heaven knows. Heaven knows about it at first. Heaven knows, the earth knows, and people know about it. Though it may not seem likely on the sruface; Heaven, the earth and people -----all know about it. You yourself will know about it

eventually. My grandmother was in the habit of saying so. I think it is a good saying. Heaven was God for my grandmother .....I'm not sure. She may have just considered Heaven to be God. I had only a Buddhist education.

Q: When did you marry?

A: My marriage. There was some problem about it. My family, having some family property, had a certain amount of cash assets. A problem arose then. Though I wasn't married, I was betrothed to a brewer's family.

Q: "Sake?"

A: A sake brewing family. They were prosperous. I was betrothed to their son who was attending a school of commerce. I got married there. I kept the books for the store for three years. My husband was still in school, so the relationship between us wasn't like that of a couple for three years. I wasn't interested in marriage. Going back home, we didn't have anything to say to each other. That is because our parents decided for me to stay at their home. The family was from outside the village. They weren't native villagers. They were a sake brewing business family. They built a two-storied storage house. Their business was prosperous. My family, trusting that family, betrothed me to them. Their business didn't go well because of the high liquor tax. The liquor tax was several thousand yen. They couldn't pay it. Being unable to pay, they went to my family for help. They had my parents give them their seal and got a loan from a

bank. Both of my parents-in-law were kind to me. They asked me, "If you have a talk with your grandfather, he may give his seal. Will you go and talk to him?" I, being just out of school, was seventeen years old.

Q: Seventeen years old.

A: Yes. It was soon after I had graduated from school. Being asked by me, my grandfather didn't have any choice. He gave his seal right away. It was three thousand and some hundred yen in those days. It was a long time ago. A few people, feeling sorry for them, loaned them five hundred yen. They received a sum of one thousand yen. The bank loan was two thousand and several hundred yen. Later on, we found out that they were deceivers. They took advantage of my grandfather. He, giving the seal of the "Miura" family, had taken full responsibility. He asked them to write a deed for payment. But they didn't. People started saying that, "The Miuras, though they've been deceived, are still placing their daughter there. That means the Miuras are receiving some money." My grandfather caught such rumors. He didn't receive any money from them. It was incredible then.....God.....I can never forget it. My parents-in-law kept me as a hostage for money. I didn't know that. My own family didn't know that, either. Being farmers, they didn't have any contact with business people. Later on, we found that they were deceivers. Deceivers are good at deceiving people. They were always kind to me. I once had a dangerous experience. When their

liquor business was about to go bankrupt.....their younger daughter.....their son was ten and their daughter was eight. The older ones were in school. All of the brothers and sisters-in-law were attached to me. They decided to apprentice their 10-year-old son to a priest, for he didn't like fish. They said, "If you take him, he'll go there." I had a dangerous experience. I took him to the temple for an apprenticeship. It was dangerous.

Q: What kind of danger were you in?

A: The danger of rape. Some men were there. In Japan, people sleep together beneath mosquito nets. I wasn't doubtful at all. It was incredible. Feeling something strange, I woke up. I got out of the mosquito netting. I spent the night outside the temple till morning. I appreciated the fact that the man had gone already. I had been told to come back home by my family. Since my inlaws were kind to me, I didn't want to go back to my family. I made up my mind then. I had enough to speak up about if I should encounter any problems. I said, "Let me go back to my family. I don't feel well." Then, I went back to my family. That was the end of it. I tell this only to you. I had never told this to my family. My life has been protected by the Lord through our minister. I'm not sure, but it seems that the Lord, or love was protecting me. They schemed to extort money after attacking me. Once a girl is attacked, you know.....It was a chance for them. I never returned to them after that. My father-in-law often

visited me to see how I was feeling. I didn't see him, declaring that I wasn't feeling well. My mother was a bright woman. She always had a live-in manservant. She went to pick up my belongings with the manservant. I thank the Lord even now for having protected me at that time. He protects even a non-believer if one is righteous. I believe I'm saved and protected by the Lord Jesus Christ because my grandfather's home was full of love and he took care of others. As a rental payment, peasants delivered a lot of rice in the fall season. My grandfather didn't take it all. He packed some rice in a sack and told the farmers to eat it for dinner. My grandmother loved to drink. She heated sake and served it to the peasants with side dishes. They, being satisfied, went back home. My grndfather didn't take all of the rice. He gave back some to the peasants. We called that "jono" or paying one's rent in goods. We treated the peasants in such a way. I believe that in return for my grandfather's good deeds, I've been unconsciously protected by the Lord and that's why I'm here today.

Q: What happened with the loan?

A: My family was responsible for the whole thing, for we'd given our seal. It was two thousand and several hundred yen. Two people loaned five hundred yen each, one thousand yen altogether. Our family was responsible for two thousand and several hundred yen. In those days.....

Q: Did your family pay for it?

A: My grandfather knew if he had bought more farms, he would have to pay more taxes. Owning more than one "cho" of farmland was enough. It was better to buy a forest whenever it was available, for the taxes were less. It takes ten years for "kunugi" or a kind of oak to grow, ten years for a pine tree, and fifty years for a cedar. When we cut down the trees, we had to pay a lot of income tax. But the tax on forest land wasn't as much as the farm tax. We had a big cedar mountain. Once each generation or once every fifty years.... During my elder brother's era, we had trees big enough to cut down. Selling all of them, we could make more than two thousand yen. We had two thousand and several hundred yen worth cedar trees. We sold them.

Q: Did you sell them to pay off the liquor tax?

A: We paid back the bank loan. Our property wasn't hurt. My grandfather, scratching his head like this, said, "No way. It is better to do things for somebody than to have things done to you by somebody." Although he had never read the Bible.....I can recall this. My grandfather, who could barely write his name, couldn't read. He said such things. It wasn't unusual to loan small money to our relatives. If you gave your seal, you have to be responsible for payments.

Q: In case the other party doesn't pay.....

A: Yes. The Miuras paid it all. My family paid it. We didn't hurt our property. Because of the seal, such a problem arose. Love for others is better than greediness.....God's world is

unchangeable in the past and at present. Even if you aren't a believer.....My grandfather loved lepers.

Q: Oh.

A: My grandfather went across the mountain about three "li" with his take-over lunch. Do you know the "Eighty-eight Spots?" The "Eighty-eight Spots" in Shikoku are the shrines and temples pilgrims visited in their pilgrim's attire. The twenty-first was the memorial day. My mother and grandmother visited the principal image on the twenty-first of every month. One-sen and two-sen coins were big in the old days. When they had the coins, my mother and grandmother saved them in their wallets without using them. My grandfather gave gifts. Do you know about gift-giving? The pitiful people were sitting. He gave one-sen or two-sen to them. They were grateful to him. My grandfather felt content. He talked to one pelgrim. The pilgrim was from a well-to-do family. Being a leper, he would have hindered his whole families' social position and marriage in the village if he had stayed there. He left home, having determined never to return to his home.

Q: Were the beggars all lepers?

A: They were lepers. Sometimes there were quite a few unfortunate lepers. There was a large space to bury those people underneath the hall of the principal image. Birth-dates were written (?). The dead were buried there. They weren't returned to their homes. My grandfather sympathized with the pitiful people. I heard of such a thing. My grandfather

was kind to the lepers, too. While I was studying the Bible at the headquarters of the Telepathy center in New York..... I donate a little to them, even now. I felt grateful to my grandfather. Bible verses are applicable to his life. Our family was like that. Miraculously, our family line has never ceased. This year the new generation's era has come. Now that a boy has been born, our family property and the occupation of farming have been handed down for seven generations. The seventh generation has successors, too. He has two daughters. Though he was afraid he wouldn't have any successors, a son has been born to him. He is happy.

Q: Mrs. Inouye, what is your maiden name?

A: Miura, my birth.....My husband is Inouye.

Q: Mrs. Inouye, what happened then?

A: I married my husband. My husband and I were second cousins. My grandmother was my husband's aunt. My husband and my mother were cousins. I married among our relatives. I've been living in the United States since then.

Q: How old were you?

A: I was nineteen years of age.

Q: At the age of seventeen.....what were you doing?

A: I was staying with the family. The problem arose before three years had passed. Though I was told by my grandfather to come back home, I didn't feel like going back home. I couldn't go back without any problems. I would have felt a pang of conscience. That problem arose. I didn't tell them

anything, but just told them I didn't feel well, and went back home. I have never told this to anybody but you. I'd like you to keep it in your mind. I have never told this to my children, either.

Q: How long after you came back.....? About a year?

A: Yes, about a year. My husband (-to-be) came back to Japan because of his mother's sickness. Then, his mother told him to marry me. The proposal had been made.

Q: It had been made, hadn't it?

A: Yes. My husband and I were sixteen years apart in age. It's incredible.....coming to the United States, lots of people...

Q: Wait a minute. When was it? What year was it?

A: I wonder what year it was.

Q: That's all right. You married at the age of nineteen, didn't you?

A: Yes, I did.

Q: Did you come here immediately then?

A: I came here.

Q: After marriage, what did you imagine about the United States?

A: After coming here, my husband farmed. I liked the quiet and spacious place. Though lots of people wanted to go back and cried, I never cried. I liked the spaciousness. I didn't feel lonely. I appreciated the fact that I had been raised in the country-side. I hadn't been raised in luxury.

Q: When you were in Japan, what did you imagine about the United States?

A: I didn't have any books to tell me about the United States. I married and just came here. I only knew that my husband was a farmer.

Q: Did you know?

A: Yes.

Q: Did your husband own the land?

A: No, it was rented land. Two eighty-acre pieces of property; one hundred and sixty acres. Growing potatoes.....He was growing potatoes on the eighty-acre farm which was located on the western edge of Yakima Valley, right above Seattle. When there was good property available, he leased two eighty-acre farms with an Indian.

Q: What about the boat? By boat?

A: I came by boat, the Chicago-maru, to Seattle.

Q: What was the boat like?

A: Being see-sick, I just stayed in bed.

Q: Is that so. There were various kinds of people on board, weren't there?

A: One Korean lady was on board. Thinking back, I'm sure that the black and gold book, which she was always reading, was the Bible. Isn't water called milk or something in the Korean language?

Q: I don't know.

A: I hardly talked to her. She went into the immigration office, too.

Q: What kind of people were on board besides her?

A: Most of the people on board were picture-brides. I came with my husband. When the boat anchored, one girl took out a picture from her kimono-sleeve. She asked me to let her know in case I found the man in the picture. She was lovable. Putting the picture back into her kimono-sleeve, she went out to the deck. The people, who had come to pick up the brides were there. It was like that. I felt they were bold. Keeping the picture in her kimono-sleeve, she asked me, "Mrs. Inouye, will you let me know if you see this face?" Almost everybody was that way.

Q: There were various stories about picture-marriages, weren't there?

A: Yes, there were. I didn't hear bad stories too often, though.

Q: Did you stop in Hawaii?

A: Yes. Let's see.....no, I didn't stop in Hawaii. Vancouver in Canada.

Q: Where?

A: Vancouver in Canada. Then, in Seattle.

Q: What kind of memories do you have concerning life on board?

A: Nothing in particular.

Q: After landing in the United States, you went in the immigration office?

A: For a few weeks. The examination for hookworms.

Q: For a few weeks?

A: I stayed over two weeks. I passed it, and my husband picked me up.

Q: Your husband had gotten out before you did?

A: He got out before me, leaving me at the immigration office.

Q: Is that so? What was your first impression of the United States?

A: I thought it was nice. My husband went to work, and I stayed home. It was in the countryside. My husband said, "A ditch-tender is coming to our house today."

Q: What?

A: A ditch-tender, an irrigation keeper. He discharged the water from the gate. He was to come. My husband said, "When a ditch-tender comes over, tell him 'my husband is working over there.'" The ditch-tender came. I said, "My husband is working over there." He understood me. I had such a humorous experience. I said, "My husband is working over there," pointing to my husband. The ditch-tender went to him right away. It was my very first conversation with a white man in English.

Q: What did you feel when you saw white people for the first time?

A: I felt they were kind. Very kind. One old Indian lady also came over quite often. We were renting Indian property. Because my husband had come back as a married man, the owner often visited us.

Q: When you came here, were white people kind to you?

A: Yes. I wonder when it was.....I, my husband, and Mr. and Mrs. Akimoto, who were running a cleaner's, were invited for

(?).

Q: By a white person?

A: Yes, he was white. Mr. (Novtoky), who was running a second-hand store. He said he had been misbehaving himself. He loved drinking. However, he married a missionary lady. Mr. (Novtoky) also turned out to be an ardent Christian. They invited us.

Q: A white couple?

A: A white lady, Mrs. (Novtoky). She told me to visit her so that she could teach me English. But I didn't intend to learn English at all, for I just stayed home.

Q: What memories do you have concerning the time of your arrival? Anything sad?

A: I've never felt sad.

Q: That's good.

A: It was good. I found out that there were more opportunities in the United States. In Japan, you can be all right as long as you succeed to some property. If you don't, you'll be a peasant for good. I knew that. We were peasants in the United States, but conditions were different in the United States and in Japan.

Q: What were your pleasures?

A: I was happy that I was starting to speak English. The year following my arrival, we rented a different piece of property and moved there. Mrs. Morton, who was my age or one year younger than I, had her children. I became close to her.

My husband went to work. I had to learn English. I visited her and learned English and cooking. Everything was a novelty. I appreciated her friendship. Something humorous happened. I believed that my husband knew English better than I. I asked him, "How do you say 'kusai' in English?" He said it was a stink in English. That was correct. Stink. I meant every odor by "kusai." My husband didn't know any word but "stink" concerning odors. Mrs. Morton's son, Owen, who was three or four years old, brought a perfume bottle. He said, "See me, Mrs. Inouye." I said, "Oh, it's a nice stink." It was a humorous story. Mrs. Morton, suckling her baby, was in the next room. She didn't suckle in front of people. She suckled where nobody else was. I heard her high-pitched laugh. Being surprised, I asked her, "Why, Mrs. Morton?" At that time, I could speak to Mrs. Morton fairly well. I said to Owen, "The perfume is a nice stink." Such a humorous thing happened. It was the first mistake I made in English. After that, my husband stopped teaching me English.

Q: What troubles did you have in those days?

A: When I came here, I didn't know how to cook rice. We kindled the firewood in the stove. It was clean. On the metal..... I was taught everything about cooking by my husband. I didn't have any problem in particular.

Q: When was your child born?

A: It was born in the second year. It was a miscarriage. Our next baby, Alice, was born in 1918.

Q: Was she born in 1918?

A: The baby born in 1918 was Alice. She is in Chicago. She is fifty-five or fifty-six years old.

Q: How many children do you have?

A: I had seven pregnancies. I had two miscarriages. The doctor told me not to work on the ranch. Not liking (?), I went to my husband on the vegetable farm. I was told not to do such a thing. One of our children, before turning two years old.....There was a man-made ditch for irrigation, which was just like a large river, in the country. We had a home near there. Martha fell down in there and died.

Q: When she was little?

A: When she was little.

Q: How little was she?

A: She would have been two years old within two months. It was too bad.

Q: The number of your children dropped to four.

A: Yes, four.

Q: You haven't felt homesick, have you?

A: I have never felt homesick. My husband went bankrupt twice in the United States.

Q: What happened?

A: Being stuck with the unsold crops, he couldn't make money. Yet, he had to pay the workers. He had to buy potato seedlings, too. Various things. Excuse me.

-----(pause)-----

Q: Knowing that much English, you don't have any problem.

A: It's nice.

Q: Why did he go bankrupt?

A: He had a large-scale farming business. At the time of planting the crops, he borrowed money from the bank. If you can sell the crops well, you don't have any problem. If you can't, you'll go bankrupt; because, you still have to pay to the bank and the rental payment. My husband didn't fail in paying the workers. He had to pay the bank as much as possible. Every time we went bankrupt, I remembered my grandmother's humble life. I neither cried about that nor complained about that. I took it for granted that such things would occur. Being bankrupt, we didn't have money. Yet, we had to keep farming.

Q: You have.....

A: As long as we were renting the property, the bank loaned us money any time. My husband was always honest. When he went bankrupt, he was told to come and get a loan at any time. They said they could loan to him. The bank knew he had gone bankrupt. I said, "Though the bank loans us money, we still must pay back the debt. At the time of such an emergency, we should be patient and do our best." I learned how thankful the nation of the United States was when both I and my husband worked at the time of bankruptcy. We picked potatoes and so on. My husband was good at farming. I went to work with him. The following year, we could rent just a four-acre piece of

property. We grew onions, dry onions. One horse. We gave away all of the tools.

Q: Did you sell them all?

A: We gave all of them to the owner. The mortgage. We had a lot of machines and three horses. All of them. We just kept a bogie horse. We grew onions. At that time, the onions sold very well. The following year, we rented a forty-acre piece of property and could resume farming. I was thankful.

Q: You had such an experience twice?

A: Twice.

Q: Then?

A: Something good also came out of them.

Q: What do you mean?

A: It was nice to have the crops sold at a healthy price. We made money the year we were planning to move to California because of the chilly weather.

Q: When did you come to California?

A: When did I come to California.....It was forty years ago. Three.....

Q: Being forty years ago, it was in 1933 or 1934?

A: In 1934.

Q: Oh, during the depression.

A: During the depression, we were farming in the Napa valley. It was soon after our arrival. Having some money, we didn't face any trouble. I asked my husband to buy me only necessities. My husband said, "Oh, I forgot it." He didn't buy it. I

assumed that he couldn't afford it and said, "All right. Next time is fine with me." I'd never complained, because I understood his feelings. He took care of me very well.

Q: Did he?

A: I'm lazy. My husband was fastidious. When we married and came here, we knew that well. My husband's sister-in-law said, "Rikae, Sadao is fastidious," when I was going aboard. My elder brother said to my husband, "Please be patient with Rikae, because she's lazy." Rikae is lazy. That was right after our marriage. My elder brother said, "Please be patient." We didn't talk about that then. After coming to (West Topper), when we had enough time, I said, "Your middle sister-in-law said you are fastidious." Then my husband said, "Your elder brother said you are lazy."

Q: That's humorous.

A: We had such a story. My mother.....my husband said, "The lazy one and the fastidious one got married." My husband said, "Sometimes I want to hit you. You're lazy. But because your mother has been taking care of me so well since my childhood, I don't feel like beating you."

Q: You got away with it.

A: Yes, I got away with it. The merit of virtue is handed down to decendents.

Q: Will you wait a minute?

(a long pause)

Q: That's right.

A: In that area. That area was for producing rice.

Q: Then?

A: Then we came here, (Brighton).

Q: (Brighton).

A: And we bought a home. Though my husband was good at farming, he was poor at business. Trusting others, he consigned the crops for sale to them. He couldn't make the sale any other way. He couldn't hold on to the crops himself and wait for buyers. So, when the crops didn't sell, we didn't get any money. Three years later when we came here, one Japanese friend said to me, "Mrs. Inouye, you have fine crops. Why don't you sell them at the Flea Market?" I listened to her. After coming and renting property here, I said to my husband, "I won't help you farm if you consign as you did over there. I want to go to the Flea Market. I'll go and sell at the Flea Market. If it's O.K. with you, I'll become a salesgirl on Wednesdays and Saturdays. What are you going to do? Are you going to entrust this to a wholesaler again?" He said, "Do whatever you want to do." My husband was good at growing crops. He knew the right timing. He timed it so well that he could grow cauliflower right before Thanksgiving. I started selling at the Flea Market.

Q: Did you sell well?

A: Yes, very well. I was silly. I had talked big. On the first day, my husband loaded the truck. A tire and so on.....In the beginning, I was told by the ladies there to bring this and

that. You know the Flea Market, don't you? It's near Libby. When the market appeared in the scenery, my heart started beating fast.

Q: Your heart beat.

A: Yes. Though I'm thick-skinned, my heart beat fast. We got off at the given spot. The Japanese ladies around us helped us. We set tables and put vegetables on them. My husband left. I didn't face the front. The customers walked along the sidewalk. There were tables along the sidewalk. Not having any customers, I turned my back and bent forward to touch my shoe-strings. I pretended that I was tying my shoes. I was silly. The lady next to me, who was a nice lady, said, "Mrs. Inouye, a customer." Then, I turned around and came out. The customers were happy about the fine cauliflower. They bought without any complaints. I said thank you and wrapped it. I have some pictures taken during those days at home.

Q: Do you?

A: After the customers left, I turned my back and touched my shoe strings. I didn't face the customers at the front. The lady next to me said again, "Mrs. Inouye, a customer." I said, "Is that so?" and came out. I was like that on a few Saturdays. Getting used to that, I started facing the customers. Watching the customer's eyes, I knew he wanted some of our goods if his eyes were fixed on our table. I faced the front directly and asked with a smile, "Do you like anything?" I

became a good salesgirl.

Q: Is that so?

A: Turnips and everything were produced by us. We were truck-farmers. I put one or two free vegetables, which were headless, in the sack. Going back home, the customer found the extra. The customer brought his friend to us. It was like that. I was too busy to touch my shoe-strings any longer. I couldn't do that any more. I like to be nice to people. Because of my home.....The cauliflower with cuts couldn't be number one quality. I couldn't sell them as number one. If I eliminated them, the rest was fine. But they couldn't be sold even as number two. I cut out the good parts and piled them in strawberry-baskets. I sold them at a low cost. So, the customers didn't have any trouble after going back home. I had cleaned them up beforehand. They sold well. I said to the lady next to me, "You should do this, too. They sell well without being labelled as number two." She said, "Oh, I see. That's a really good idea." She was happy, too.

Q: How long did you do that?

A: I did that for a long time. The war.....

Q: When did you start that?

A: I started.....Let's see.....three years. I was there for two years. We came here forty years ago. Anyway, we were there for three years. After four years. Up until the war broke out.

Q: Then.....

A: Though it is improved now, it had only a tin roof. Before that, it was located on 9th Street. Ninth Street wasn't a good location. My husband easily made friends with white people and Nisei. Having discussed it with his friends, he bought one block, all beyond (Leopard). He started a market.

Q: The war.....how was it? Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I was still there. We were farming a ten-acre piece of property in (Brighton). We were considering purchasing it, for our farming was prosperous. We hadn't purchased it yet. Our business was prosperous then. After the Pearl Harbor attack, we couldn't go out to the market. Mr. and Mrs. (Streud) were very nice people. Both of them are dead now. Our strawberries sold well. They came to pick up our strawberries and went to the market to sell them. Having sold the strawberries, they returned the boxes and gave us money. They were very kind.

Q: What was their name?

A: Mr. and Mrs. (Streud).

Q: (Streud)?

A: Yes. They were in the Carmichael area.

Q: Did they have any children?

A: No children. I have a picture of them.

Q: Where were you when Pearl Harbor was attacked?

A: I was still there. We were farming there. Somehow.....

Q: How did you hear about that?

A: I wonder how I heard.....On the radio.....I must have had a radio. We had a small radio. Being discouraged at hearing that, I had a long face. I couldn't go to the market. Being shut inside the house, I couldn't go outside the home. Our eldest son, Minoru, came back from his school-----a junior high school.....He was attending college. I told him, "Minoru, Japan has lodged an attack." Minoru hadn't known that yet. He threw his notebooks on the sofa and said, "The Japanese face has been smashed up." I felt sorry for him. His Japanese face.....

Q: Had been smashed....?

A: It had been smashed. He was getting along well with his white friends. I felt sorry for him. I didn't know what to say. We hadn't purchased the property yet. We were renting. We had many sets of tools. Various tools. We were asked to sell them for almost nothing. Thieves also came in those days. We didn't lock them up, though. We put new tractor tires in the bike barn. The thieves rolled them and took them over the fense. We evacuated after having sold the tools for almost nothing.

Q: It was awful.

A: Yes.

Q: What did you think about Japan that had broken out the war?

A: About Japan.....no matter what.....I felt Japan was thoughtless. I didn't think Japan understood. I didn't believe it was good for Japan.

Q: The evacuation.....

A: About the evacuation? Some people complained about the evacuation, for those with United States cituzenship were also evacuated. Speaking on one point---on the point of peace, I feel that the Japanese people were put in there to avoid danger. No trouble. There were a lot of bad people. You couldn't tell who had citizenship. I didn't complain even a little bit, for I thought we were put in there for the sake of safety. Others complained harshly that even the United States citizens were put in the camps. I didn't agree with them at all. We were put in there for the sake of safety. I didn't complain. Japan, that had started it, is to blame. Thinking that way, I didn't have any complaint.

Q: At the time of evacuation, where did you go?

A: We were at (La Bore) for a short period of time.

Q: (La Bore)? Where?

A: Somewhere over there. We weren't there for a long time. We went to Tulelake.

Q: How did you feel when you moved in there?

A: I felt it was a spacious place. I didn't complain about anything in particular, as others did. I wasn't disturbed at all. I was peaceful.

Q: Do you remember various happenings in the camp?

A: Yes. Various things. Toward the end, the Tule Lake camp was infamous as a "No-No camp." It wasn't like that when we were there. Our children are all Americanized. Alice, who

is in Chicago, was grown-up then. Minoru was already grown-up, too. At the time we moved in, group-meetings were held to discuss various things. Being adults, Alice and Minoru attended the meetings. Minoru was quiet, whereas Alice expressed her opinion well. Alice's opinions were a little different from others'. We were in #21. Do you know (Kohi) Ohshima? He was in the same group as Alice. He is still a friend of Alice's. My husband had the same opinion. Being in the United States,.....the rumor was spread that there were spies in #21. Being on the United States' side, Alice was called a spy. Alice and Minoru were able to get out of there eventually. Alice went to Chicago and Minoru went to Idaho. He went to farm the crops of potatoes and onions in the fall season. After finishing the farming, he went to (Boysen) Hotel in Idaho. He is still there even now.

Q: A hotel?

A: He's been working at the hotel. For almost twenty years.

Q: At the (Boysen) Hotel?

A: At the (Boysen) Hotel. He went to Chicago and has been working for the same hotel. Only once he worked for another one in the same group. He is working there. I feel grateful about that, too. If my children changed jobs here and there..... This is a picture of Alice at a convention. The church Alice attends.....She is with the congregation, a white congregation.

Q: The problem of loyalty arose, didn't it?

A: Yes, yes.

Q: What did you think about it then? To the United States or to Japan?

A: At that time I signed for as being loyal to the United States. I had resolved to stay in the United States. As my children were United States citizens, I signed as being loyal to the United States. My husband, I and our children---all felt the same way.

Q: Didn't other people complain about you?

A: We signed for it anonymously. I signed without saying anything. I didn't say anything in detail to the pro-Japanese people. Whenever I met a person who spoke ill of Nisei, I dared to explain. Young people, hand in hand went to dances. The pro-Japanese people had a negative image, observing boys and girls going to a dance. They thought the young people would do something bad. There was a laundry room called "kamaba," or a boiler room. While the people were talking there, they saw two young people---a boy and a girl. The boy was carrying a coat and a purse for her. They were intimate. They said, "The two will be.....by the time they come back." It was senseless. I hate to repeat what they said. Then, when I felt it was the right time, I spoke up boldly. I said, "Ladies, American boys pick up girls at home and return home in time." "They behave in a certain manner. You deny dancing flatly. If you have children and judge them in that way, they may actually do something wrong. They have their dancing manners. A boy picks up a girl and takes her back home by a

certain time. That is the custom. If you are careless, you might make a mistake. I feel sorry for children who are judged in that way." Since my daughters weren't going steady, they had various boyfriends. When a new boy came over, I told him about that. I said to the boy, "I've been telling people such things. So, you'd better know the dancing manners in the United States." The dance started at a certain time and ended at a certain time. I said, "On the way back home, don't drive through the dark street. Even if you have to make a detour, you should take a lighted street. Don't take a dark street." I sent them off (?). He took her back home right in time. I invited him in and talked to him at home. Various things. I was always on the young people's side. I couldn't let it go when I heard of such a thing in Tule Lake. The children at the family were pitiful. They decided so flatly, without knowing the facts. It was senseless. Awful.

Q: A turmoil arose concerning the military service, didn't it?

A: At that time Minoru was outside. Oh, he was still inside. There were volunteers who spoke Japanese. Do you know Roy Takai?

Q: Roy Takai? I don't know him.

A: He was with the military for a long time. Mr. Hosoida's daughter.....Minoru belonged to a group of nice boys. They understood Japanese. He became acquainted with the people from Washington in the camp. They volunteered. Even if

they knew a little Japanese, they declared they knew Japanese and were accepted after signing. Minoru told me about that, returning home. He said, "I wonder if I should volunteer." My husband said, "You know, this war is between Japan and the United States. Your cousins in Japan are in the military service. I feel uneasy about cousins fighting each other. You don't have to volunteer. If the United States government drafts you, you must go, though. Please forbear volunteering." Understanding him, Minoru didn't volunteer. When he was allowed to go outside, he went to farm. The boys, who volunteered from Tule Lake, were pitiful. Sons volunteered and left. Even their parents were blamed by the Issei on the blocks in the camp. They complained about those who were loyal to the United States. One mother.....Everybody went to see him off. I and an old lady named Mrs. Kato.....Do you happen to know her? Mrs. Kato of Walla Walla. Being born in Hawaii, she had the same feelings as ours. We were in the same camp. We said, "Let's go to see him off." George Muraki volunteered at that time. You know George Muraki, don't you?

Q: An architect.

A: An architect. He volunteered at that time. He was the manager of block #21. His mother, who was on a different block, was condemned by others. Then, when her son was leaving, she wanted to see him off. She was hiding far away. Mrs. Kato and I said, "Mrs. Muraki, you're to send off George, aren't

you? Let's go. Come on." We drew her by her hands and went to send off Mr. George Muraki. I said,"Don't be scared. It's a matter of course. You don't have to be scared at all. You should send him off with high spirits." I took her to send him off. Mrs. Muraki and others.....the parents were also condemned. In those days I felt the Issei in the United States were trivial. They didn't understand things very well. They thought Japan was the greatest, which wasn't true. Japan was.....Let's see.....I went to Japan before the war in 1937. After that the war broke out in 1945. I visited the countryside in Japan and saw only old men, old ladies, women and children there. All of the young people were out. No young man was there. I wondered what would happen. I didn't have any idea, because the war hadn't begun yet then. I felt sorry. They dried radishes including its tip to make "kiriboshi." They delivered it to the village office for the soldiers' food. Being asked to volunteer, they delivered the dried radish to the village office. It was to send to the soldiers' barracks for their food. Japan was poor, pretty poor. Though my family members were farmers, they had a boy laborer. Since he worked hard, my family wasn't in trouble. On the other hand, my married sister didn't have anybody to pick up firewood after the wood was chopped. Since there was a large storage area for firewood at the family's place, she went there to pick up some to kindle a fire. Japan was poor. My mother had some tenant farmers at that time. I told her I was a

tenat farmer. I told her even tenant farmers were fairly well off. She said, "If it's such a nice place, you'd better stay in the United States." Nineteen years after I had come to the United States, I returned in order to give my mother a sense of relief. She said, "Your return was the best remedy for me." Nineteen years after I'd come to the United States .....Alice came to San Francisco, saying she understood my feelings for the first time. I went to say thank you to my mother and to give her a sense of relief. That was it. I gave her a good remedy and came back. She said, "If it's such a good place, you'd better stay in the United States." I told her that I was a tenant farmer without a home and property ownership; however, my life in the United States was such. She felt relieved and said happily, "If it's such a good place, you'd better stay in the United States."

Q: Let's see. When were you baptized as a Christian?

A: We were baptized, being protected by the Lord's love. An easy-goer and a complainer.....we were stubborn. We listened to others' talk. Once a church in Florin asked us to let them have a home meeting at out place. We didn't join even then. After they left, I put up an incense stick and worshiped the Buddhist altar. However, the Lord loved us without giving up on us. In 19.....while we were staying in Tule Lake, Johnny had an eye disease and Emmie suffered from pleurisy.

Q: What?

A: While we were staying Tule Lake.....although she was healthy

.....Emmie wanted to study to be a nurse at college. She intended to take the classes at college. Soon after we moved into the Tule Lake camp, she received her high school diploma. Johnny hadn't started high school. In Tule Lake, a doctor told us Johnny might become blind. Emmie couldn't work because of pleurisy.

Q: Pleurisy?

A: Yes, pleurisy. She couldn't work any longer. Emmie was..... A lot of girls were working as nurse's aids. They weren't nurses. A lot of girls went to work at a hospital. Once they were assigned to the T.B. ward, their parents prohibited them from working and they couldn't go to work. Emmie was assigned there. She told me all of her feelings. She said, "Mama, I hope to be a nurse. If I abhor the T.B. ward, I won't be able to become a nurse." What she said was correct. In the meantime, while she was making a bed, she felt a pain in her side. She consulted a doctor and was told that she had pleurisy. Before moving into the camp, we didn't have any physical check-up. Since then.....My husband cried for the first time then. Entering the room.....He said, "Johnny might go blind. Emmie has pleurisy. We might lose two children. As long as we stay in the camp, they'll ruin themselves. If the Issei are permitted to leave, we should get out of here and lead a free life, so that they may recover." My husband went to the office to have a talk. The Issei were permitted to leave.....We went to Kansas City.....not City but Lawrence in Kansas. Do you know Kansas University? We

were given a green-house job there. We soon left the camp in fall, 1944. We stayed in Tule Lake for only one winter. We went there. We were loved by the Lord. Do you know Dr. Frank Smith? He used to be a superintendent. He's gone now. He used to be a superintendent of the Japanese Methodist church. It was his home-town. He came to my husband and said, "Mr. Inouye, you don't have to go anywhere but to church. Church is good for you." My husband listened to him. He spoke Japanese. My husband respected him. He said, "My sister will give you a ride." In those days, Emmie was in bed. If you have T.B., you have to be in bed. Not being able to leave her alone, I stayed home with her all of the time. My husband started attending church one year before I did. Luckily, we met Mrs. (Neomida), a missionary of the Free Methodist church. She graduated from two colleges. She was born crippled. Her leg was like this. Her leg was crippled. She came to our place and told me to study the Bible. I excused myself, saying, "I've never read the Bible." "Do you believe in God?" she asked me. "I believe in God," I answered. I didn't know anything else, but.....when I was in Seattle, Washington, there was a grocery store called Masajiro Furuya's. I picked up food once a month from him. Then, I read "God is love," in a white book titled "Every Day Living." I remember only that phrase, even now. I don't remember anything else. I said to Mrs. (Neomida), "I've never read the Bible. But I used to read a daily book and I never

forget 'God is love.' I keep it in my heart." She said, "That's one point. Good enough. You should study the Bible. I'll order the Bible." She ordered the Japanese Bible. She She read the English Bible, and I read the Japanese Bible. She taught me the Bible every Friday afternoon. Her bedroom, (?) was located on the top of the three stories. Nobody bothered us. In the beginning, my husband didn't dare to ask me about the Bible unless I started talking to him. At one time, he asked me, "What did you learn today?" I was so happy. He asked me, "What did you learn today?" I was studying John 14-4 then. Miss Wright told me to learn John 14 by heart. My husband said, "I may try to learn it by heart." He learned it by heart faster than I. Taking a bath, he uttered the verses. He asked me, "Mama, what's next?" He was bright, for he was a fastidious person. He memorized it. When it came to Chapter 15, "It seemed too hard for me to catch up," he said. He started it, though. The chapter on love was short enough to learn easily. Psalm 23, various verses.....Psalm 119. I told him to learn them by heart. He was happy to memorize them. Later on, when I asked him, "Where is it stated in the Bible?" My husband answered, "Read that chapter. It must be in it." He was so bright. I couldn't do that. My memory was poor. My husband and I decided in 1945, and were baptized on Easter Day.

Q: Where?

A: At that church. Mrs. McFarland died the other day. She acted

as our godmother and stood by us. We were baptized. After returning home, my husband said something cute, "My name is Sadamitsu. White people never pronounce it perfectly. I wish my name were pronounced perfectly. I have to use my first name, Sadamitsu, in Heaven." At home, he said happily, "I felt grateful when Dr. Alison called my name 'Sadamitsu Inouye.'" If you could talk to my husband, you would have fun. My husband loved talking, though he was a fastidious person. Since then he had followed the Bible without fail. He quit smoking. He was good at Japanese "joruri." He never uttered the Japanese popular song and "joruri." He left his past behind. His life was just for singing hymns and memorizing Bible verses. During the time we were attending the Pioneer church, he was hard of hearing. He said,"I'm hard of hearing. I wish I could hear the preacher. I believe in Jesus Christ, sitting before the cross. I go to worship in faith." He meant he was thankful to worship before the cross whether he could hear the minister or not. He said, "After I die, I'll go to Heaven. So, you don't have to visit my grave."

Q: Did he?

A: "My spirit will be in Heaven. My body will be spoiled. I'll be in Heaven, so you don't have to visit my grave with flowers. Instead, donate flowers to the church," he said. My husband used to donate flowers to the Pioneer church. Succeeding him, I donate flowers for the alter. That's what my husband wanted. He understood the Bible very well. A couple is to be

separated after death. Before he became sick, he called me, "Rika-chan." In my childhood days, he called me Rika-chan. He woke me up, calling, "Rika-chan." He said, "Don't forget Sadamitsu." He must have felt his death was nearing. I guess he wanted to tell me so some time. He said so three times, over and over. I said, "aha," and fell asleep. Later on, I realized how well my husband had read and understood the Bible.

Q: When did he die?

A: He died in 1967.

Q: Oh, he died recently.

A: Recently.

Q: In 1967?

A: In 1967, yes.

Q: Did he die here?

A: While he had asthma, he caught some virus. In a few months, he got a report that he had gotten rid of the virus. Around then, he died. He made a life habit to pray, giving his appreciation before going to bed. Just a minute, please.

(pause)

A: Concerning citizenship.....he was adamant once he had made up his mind. He never changed his mind. I got my citizenship through naturalization.

Q: When did you get it?

A: I came back here in 1927. In 1928, I started attending a class for naturalization.

Q: Was it such a long time ago?

A: Yes. It was a start. I told my husband, "I'm going to attend a class for citizenship. Let's go together." He said, "No, my citizenship is in Heaven. I can't do anything about my Japanese citizenship, for I have to follow the law in this world. But my citizenship is in Heaven." He was never naturalized. At the time of the purchase of this house and property, he couldn't buy it without United States citizenship. He bought it in the name of John. Incredibly, in the meantime, the people who had been living in the United States were allowed to own property. I felt grateful. While he was still healthy, he could own the property.

Q: When did you move into this house?

A: We moved into this house in 1950.

Q: In 1950.

A: It may have been in 1951.

Q: Upon your return from the war camp, where did you go first?

A: When we returned from the war, let me see.....how was it, when we returned from the war? Yes, in 1947 from Kansas..... no, in 1937.

Q: No, in 1947.

A: Oh, in 1947, we returned from Kansas and lived in a chicken house. I have a story about it. I had said even a chicken house or a barn would do. Then, we were given a chicken house. There was one Italian family owning a large home in the area where we used to live. We went to ask them to rent

us one room in the basement or something. Their house was full. No vacancy. In the meantime, the Italian lady next door came to me. I asked her, "I need a house, Mary. Do you know any house?" She said, "If it's for you, I have one." I said, "It's late now. I'll come tomorrow morning. Will you arrange it by then?" We went to the chicken house. That was a house built by Mr. Hirota, who used to rent the ranch to grow strawberries. He was a strawberry grower. That house had a floor and windows which were in the good shape. I said to myself, "Oh, this is the house where Mr. Hirota used to live." We rented it. Taking a look at the inside, I found a chicken net on each window. Do you know what a chicken net is? I asked her, "Mary, why did you put a chicken net on each window?" She said, "Oh, we once had baby chickens." I said to my husband, "Then, it's a chicken house. Isn't it a coincidence?" At Dr. Alison's home, we had a farewell pot-luck dinner. About thirty people were invited. When I was about to leave, one lady.....I forgot her name.....She called me aside and asked me, "Mrs. Inouye, homes are scarce throughout the United States. If you can't find one over there, what are you going to do?" She worried about us. I told her about Jesus Christ. "Jesus Christ was born in a stable and slept in a manger. So, if we can't find a house, we'll get on a truck in a barn. I'll go anywhere---even to a barn or a chicken house---given by God." She held me and said, "God bless you!" She didn't let me go. We were sent off. On

the following morning, we left there for Sacramento.

Q: Was Mary a young white lady?

A: Mary. She's still living there. She is the owner of the chicken house.

Q: There.

A: We asked her to let us stay there for a few months. Janet, my husband and I---three of us. We came back, leaving Emily at a convalescent hospital. I was grateful to God. I had said a chicken house or a barn would do. Then, we were given a chicken house. I told Janet and my husband that we couldn't complain. We didn't have to use the best paint, but anyway we cleaned and painted. A linoleum tile floor doesn't require nails. We bought some linoleum tiles for the front room and the next room. We put them on. I put up a full set of curtains on the windows. We made a fine home. Our cooking stove was a beautiful blue lacquered one. One Italian family kept it. They also kept our beds in their basement. We brought in our cooking stove, a fire wood stove. It was livable there with our cooking stove and beds. The house was no longer a chicken house. The curtains were put up on the windows, and the cooking stove was set up. Though we'd intended to stay there for three or four months, we actually stayed there for three years. The lady brought us a gas heater. The gas was open there. She was kind to us in various ways. We finally had hot water boiled on the heater. Not for three months, but for three years we stayed there. The

rent was cheap, only twenty-five dollars a month. The average rent at that time was one hundred dollars a month, no matter where you went.

Q: What was your occupation while you were living there?

A: Having been a farmer, my husband started gardening. When I was in Denver, I read the newspaper and knew that the Libby Cannery hired Japanese workers. The Libby Cannery hadn't hired Japanese people before.

Q: Did you intend to work for the Libby Cannery?

A: Yes. In 1937, in 1947 upon our return, I tried three times. I tried one more time. On the fourth try, I was hired. I began working when the tomato season started.

Q: Were there Japanese people working there?

A: Yes, there were.

Q: Your husband became a gardener upon your return.

A: A gardener. In the beginning, jobs were scarce. My husband wondered if he should go to (Los Angeles) with a blanket. I said, "It's impossible to have a good business from the start." Johnny, who'd returned here with us, helped him until the business was settled. Johnny went to an airline school in Los Angeles after my husband was able to handle it by himself. My husband had been a gardener. I was with the cannery for a long time.

Q: After having stayed there for three years, did you have this house built?

A: Yes. As Johnny knew, aliens couldn't own a house and property.

Afraid of being arrested, we cashed all of my husband's and my incomes. We spent as much as necessary, and cashed the rest. We'd been with Bank of America since the pre-war days. We cashed everything and saved it in a bank safety box. Mr. (Harley) Yamazaki built this house. My husband's grandfather and father were carpenters. His nephew is an architect in Aichi-prefectute. Seeing Mr. Yamazaki's work at the Pioneer church, my husband decided to ask Mr. Yamazaki to build our home; for Mr. Yamazaki had done a good job. He built this house. We asked him to build one as economically as possible. Mr. Yamazaki said it'd be fine. He did it according to our order. The payments for a house was usually made in three or four installments. We paid it all in cash. We were afraid of being arrested, otherwise. Paying in cash, we wouldn't be arrested. Writing checks wasn't safe. Thus, my husband was careful not to be arrested.

Q: It was hard.

A: Yes.

Q: Japanese people were unable to rent a piece of property?

A: That's right. Japanese people were once unable to rent a piece of property. Concerning our property, we had our cousin's son, who was born in Florin, lease it. Japanese citizens couldn't lease it.

Q: Couldn't. It was troublesome.

A: Yes. That's how it was.

Q: During the war, were various organizations, such as the

Japanese Prefectural Association and the Japanese Association helpful in any way?

A: No. My husband didn't like Japanese organizations such as the Prefectural Association. Being in the United States, he wanted to join an American organization. Even now, we don't belong to any Japanese-American organizations.

Q: When your husband came here.....When you came here, did you intend to return to Japan soon?

A: I intended to return home after ten years. At the time of our marriage, he promised me to return to Japan ten years later. Since I like the United States, I opposed returning to Japan. Our children were born and started their schooling. I felt the United States was the country where they could have succees. Even if my family had built a home for us, I couldn't have appreciated it; because I was lazy. As you know, we could have been powerless before them. Being in the United States, we could take care of ourselves. I liked the United States. I said I didn't want to return. My husband, who had made a promise, couldn't say so. My grandfather left a piece of property, saying that he'd like a home built there for Rikae. When I returned to Japan, my grand father was dead. Even now.....when I returned there six years ago, the property remained as it was. Though somebody built a home.....It remained as it was. I told my elder brother that I didn't want it. Living in the United States, I didn't want it. I didn't appreciate it. I could have been powerless.

I don't like that. Doing our best on our own in the United States, our children could benifit. I didn't want our children to feel powerless in directing their lives. I was lazy. I am happy that I remained in the United States. Since Emmie was sick, we arranged for her to come back anytime. You never know when parents may die. Because of his responsibility, my husband had a home built in cash. If her parents had died, leaving some debts, Emmie would have been homeless. She might have been miserable. He had a home built in case of emergency. We hadn't imagined she could get married. She wasn't healthy. He had a home built, so that Emmie could live at ease.

Q: Have Johnny's eyes gotten better?

A: Johnny's eyes got better after he took a sulfa-drug medication for a week over there. Alice went to Chicago, and asked a doctor about Johnny. She was told that a sulfa-drug was good. I told Dr. Kanbara, who was the only eye-doctor here, about it. He didn't order the medicine, saying that he couldn't get it here. His eyes didn't get well even after an operation. I felt sorry for him. Taking the medication for one week, he didn't have to wear glasses. He was eligible for the Army. His eyes really improved. I felt grateful.

Q: Did Emmie get well, too?

A: Emmie, too. We three came back here, leaving Emmie in the hospital by herself. Emmie's condition got worse after that. She didn't have any family to visit her every month. Getting

worse, she was hospitalized again. She got worse. She could not eat the meals brought to her room. She got worse day after day. One day, in the year we made a move, my husband was packing at home. On that day, one lady's church group in the countryside called Miss Wright to take me to that country church. My husband and Johnny were packing at home. I gave my testimony then. I told them that Emmie was hospitalized. I also told about Buddhism. Before leaving there, one lady said to me, "Don't worry. Though we haven't met Emmie yet, we've become close to you. We'll make friends with Emmie through prayers and letters. Don't worry." There must have been thirty or forty people gathering there. They gave all of the offering money to Miss Wright. They said, "This is for your gasoline expenses. The rest is for Mrs. Inouye's return to Sacramento." The old lady asked me to give a prayer. I said I couldn't pray, except in Japanese. I prayed in Japanese. That old lady, sitting on the front row, came to me. She said, "I didn't understand the words in your prayer, but I was moved by your feelings." She was happy.

Q: Was it a caucasian church?

A: Yes. It was a caucasian church in the countryside. It was the last incident I remember there.

Q: You talked in Japanese and she.....

A: Miss Wright was with me. I stood up and talked. Miss Wright told the group, "If you don't understand her English, let me

know. I understand her English." I made a speech in broken English. All in English. On the Christmas of the year we made a move, a large box was delivered to Emmie from those ladies. A note had been written---"Open only one package each day"---on the top of the box. Many packages which had been sent by the church people were in it. I heard that there were some Bible verses and letters included in it. Every box. In one box, she found a letter with Psalm 23. She read the most appropriate words in it. (Chanting Psalm 23) Since then Emmie believed that God was with her. She started feeling well to be able to finish all of her food on that night. She ate the food brought in to her. Though she hadn't been able to sleep before, she could sleep well starting from that night. She was getting healthy enough to feel normal. Having a good-night's sleep each night, she got well quickly. Surprisingly, she was able to leave the hospital early. She wrote to us and told us everything. Being so close to Chicago, where Alice was living, she wanted to drop by there. Such a surprise. That was the time when we were living in the chicken house. When Emmie came back, we were still in the chicken house. I felt grateful that the Christians were so kind. Emmie felt easy. Such great love! The message of love was sent to her. Emmie was saved by it.

Q: When you came back here, did you attend Pioneer Church soon?

A: Yes, soon.

Q: How was it then?

A: We were in (Brighton) then. Florin Church was closer to us. Our children attended Florin Church Sunday School. I heard that Florin Church was canceling its Sunday worship services, because the farmers were all busy. I and my husband felt that we shouldn't attend a church which was canceling its Sunday worship services.

Q: Is that so?

A: Sundays weren't off. We decided to go to the church in Pioneer Town. Then we went to the church in town. Emmie was with us when we started going to the church. I didn't agree with every aspect of the Pioneer Church. I was afraid we might change the church, and expressed my feelings to Emmie. She said, "Mom, wherever you go, it'll be the same. You can't accept everything from the beginning. You need to be with them. Stay with them." Due to Emmie's encouragement, I didn't change my mind and stayed with them.

Q: What was the most difficult thing for you after coming back here.....from the war?

A: Coming back from the war.....Well, I worked at a cannery. I bragged. The Flea market was like that, too. I joined the cannery. I'd never worked for others. I entered the cannery. I should be grateful that I got the Job after having applied for it four times. However, I experienced a lot of unfair things in the cannery. Unfair.

Q: How was it unfair?

A: We had a (floor man). The workers knew everything, though

they did say anything. We had to be patient. There were a lot of exasperating things there. Then, I remembered, "God knows everything. We can't serve two lords." The floor man was a faultfinder. Working for somebody.....Because he was the boss at work, I worked for him. I tried to be lovable before Jesus Christ, our Lord. I was all for it. Each time I felt exasperated, I rememberd, "God knows everything." I worked there for fourteen and a half years without talking back. I worked pleasantly.

Q: Among caucasians?

A: There were unfair things.

Q: In what way?

A: The cannery had a union. The members' names were numbered. The new numbers were laid off first. The higher numbers.....

Q: From the bottom?

A: From those with fewer years.....Promotion was done from the top. Opportunities were given to the old workers. The new workers were laid off. Something unfair was done.

Q: How?

A: At the time of the lay-offs, I was laid off rather than others, though I had more years than they had. It was unfair. But I was helpless. I said, "(?). They offered it to me. So, I'll go back home." Such a thing wasn't rare. After working for 1,600 (hours), you will be a steady worker. Working steadily for a while, you will join the oldest group. Then you can get a retirement plan. I wanted to be in that

situation. I hadn't been classified as a steady worker even by the end of December. While I was being laid off, the company called me, "Is Rikae there? (?). You may come right away." Though I was angry enough not to go, I said O.K. and went to work again. When I got there, Marguerite wasn't there, but rather an office girl. I asked her to figure out my hours by the end of that day, and went to the olive section. Soon after that, (Beclose), one of the oldest workers, came in. He said, "Rikae, don't worry. Working here fulltime today, you'll be transferred to the ketchup plant." I said, "Oh, thank you." If I hadn't followed the office directions just because I was mad, I could have missed the steady position. It was done at the last minute. I am indebted to God. He called me in. That's why I could be obedient enough to say yes. It was due to God's mercy. I worked for two years after that, till 1962. I had a steady position for two years. Those workers who had been given opportunities ahead of me couldn't get the steady position. It was incredible. I became a steady worker, and worked till 1962. This picture was in the newspaper. (?) sent it to me.

Q: (Reverend Takarabe's reading of the document concerning Mrs. Inouye's pension plan.)

When was this issued?

A: The year I received my pension, the news was publicized.

Q: Was the news publicized in 1972?

A: About 1962.

Q: On the fifth of February 1962.

A: I didn't know about that. A friend of mine gave it to me.

Q: In 1962? Reverend Kato was still around at that time, wasn't he?

A: Yes. Then.....

Q: Do you still keep your diary?

A: I used to keep it every day. I stopped doing it after I filled up this book. It was given to me by the union. Everybody was kind to me. When I received a pension, being Japanese; one lady said to me, "Mrs. Inouye, you're lucky." I said to her, "It was not a matter of luck. I was given it by the Lord's mercy." One Japanese Christian said, "That's true, Mrs. Inouye. Because of your faith, you have joy." Though she was also a Christian, the former said, "You're just lucky." I didn't think I was lucky. I insisted that God knows everything. Without my faith, I couldn't have been patient. I was lazy. I experienced a lot of unfair things. We had a turkey dinner every year. I wasn't given a ticket at one time. On our floor.....I didn't know why people didn't like me. At the same time, I didn't please them, either. I didn't give any Christmas presents as others did. On my leaving, Marguerite asked me, "Do you have a dinner ticket for prizes?" I answered her, "No, I don't have any." She said, "Oh, you don't have one. You're supposed to have been given one. I'll give one to you. Since I'm in charge of it, I'll take care of

it. You don't have to take it back home." When I went to work following the day of the dinner, I found out that I had won a turkey. I'm not sure, but Marguerite might have kept it for me. I don't know. I divided the turkey and gave one half to Rose, who often gave me a ride. She is a nice Italian lady. Those whom I knew well were kind. There were some workers from the Seventh Day Adventist and the Lutheran churches at the cannery. I was close to the Lutheran church. Miss Wright and I attended the prayer meetings at the Lutheran church. Miss Wright took me to the Baptest church, the Lutheran church, and the Methodist church. Various kinds of people, such as college professors were there. I was the only Japanese person. I always attended there. I have a Lutheran frien.

Q: You've had a variety of experiences, haven't you? Really..... a variety of experiences.

A: Yes. God.....At the end of each letter to my children, I write, "God is the best." Nothing else is the best. God knows everything.

Q: The Sansei.....You have some grandchildren, don't you? As a Japanese person or as a Christian, what would you like to teach the Sansei?

A: I feel God is the best. Churches.....Trust Jesus Christ. Though quite a few Americans trust God, most of them don't follow Him. All of my children are Christians. My grandchildren, too. However, they are hardly close to the Church.

Alice is with a church and is serving there. Emmie, too. Emmie is in San Mateo now. The Bowling Greens Church is in San Mateo.

Q: In San Mateo. Yes.

A: It's a caucasian church. That church is close to Emmie's place. So, she is with them.

Q: The Bowling Greens Church.....aha.

A: Something like that. She transferred her membership from Portland to there.

Q: What do you think about children? Do you think there is anything particulurly good for them, being Japanese? Traditions and so on?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you tell your grandchildren about that? Do you have anything you wish them to do? For example, don't lose the good aspects of the Japanese people. Do you feel so?

A: Rather than the good aspects of Japanese people.....Being in the United States, they don't know about Japan. (?) American. I always recommend God.....not to be far from the Church. Don't indulge in luxury. Jesus Christ didn't even have a home. Telling them a story about that, they won't indulge in luxury. "Help each other. God is love." They shouldn't forget that. I talk to them about that, and also write to them, putting that at the end of each letter. I can't write English. Alice in Chicago can write the Japanese alphabet. So, she writes in Japanese. Emmie and Minore write

Japanese in Roman letters. I'd better include God's words at the end. "God is love. Always....." I write that. I'm not concerned with anything good as a Japanese person.

Q: Aren't you?

A: No. Christianity. God is best. Speaking of the good aspects of Japanese people, I've been benifitted by a humble life. A humble life. "Love each other. Do your best for others." I was taught this by my grandmother. It's also written in the Bible. I'd like to leave a message on the theme that God is the best, rather than on the good aspects of the Japanese people. I always want to leave this message.

Q: Well, we're through with our discussion.

A: Have we finished?

Q: Would you like to say anything else?

A: That's all. "Don't indulge in luxury. Love each other." When I have a chance, I talk about this to people from Japan. At home, a husband is the boss. His wife should love him. She should love him before he loves her. Be patient with love in your heart. And trust Jesus Christ. This is the main point, I say. I say, if a wife doesn't endure at home, a happy home can't be established. When I have a chance..... It's true. Don't you think so?

Q: Aha.

A: Without love at home, a happy and peaceful home can't be established. "The blessed are those who are peaceful at heart." Those people who are with Jesus Christ can be the

Lord's children. Whatever the race is, everybody should be peaceful. I always want to talk about this.

Q: Thank you very much for today.

A: I wonder if this is useful.

Q: Translating this into English, we'd like to show it to the Sansei. Is that all right with you?

A: Go right ahead. Please include the points on a humble life and a luxurious life. You can lead a luxurious life without being taught. A humble life is useful. The Sansei at present are pitiful. They are not experiencing any hardships. The Nisei know more or less how their parents struggled. The Sansei and Yonsei are pitiful. They don't know. They might get into trouble. I hope this wish will be delivered to them. Love and peace.....

Q: Yes. I don't have the paper with me today. Will you sign the paper next time? The permission to show this to students and for us to keep this tape. Something like that. It won't be too complicated. We won't use it at random. We'll treasure it.

A: I'll be happy if I can be helpful.

Q: Please let us do so.

A: I'll be praying for you.

Q: Yes.

A: Thank you.

Q: Thank you for your time, for a long time today.

A: Let me pray. Knowledgable God, our Father, I'd like to give

thanks for the fact that Reverend Takarabe went to such trouble in visiting me and that I was able to show my appreciation of Jesus Christ, being with him. Dear Lord, may your full protection, help and joy fall on Reverend Takarabe's task. May your blessing fall on those brothers and sisters in Christ, who are suffering. I am as I am today due to your blessings. Let us win with our love in Jesus Christ. Let us have a peaceful nation. I humbly pray before the Lord. Amen.

Q: Thank you very much.